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- d) a nucleotide sequence having at least 75 % identity to the nucleotide sequence of a);
 - e) a nucleotide sequence having at least 85 % identity to the nucleotide sequence of a);
 - f) a nucleotide sequence having at least 95 % identity to the nucleotide sequence of a);
 - g) a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 22 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1;
 - h) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the full length complement of the nucleotide sequence of a), said stringent conditions comprising hybridization in 50% formamide, 1 M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37°C, followed by a wash in 0.1X SSC at 60 to 65°C; and
 - i) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
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7. (Twice amended) An expression cassette comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- B2
- a) a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2;
 - b) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 65% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;
 - c) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 70% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

d) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 75% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

e) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

f) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

g) a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide consisting of at least 25 contiguous residues of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity; and

h) a polypeptide encoding a nucleotide sequence according to claim 1; wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding the fusion polypeptide is operably linked to a promoter capable of initiating the transcription of the nucleotide sequence.

15. (Amended) An isolated cell containing the vector of claim 14.

16. (Twice amended) An isolated transformed cell having stably incorporated within its genome a nucleotide sequence according to claim 1.

26. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is a nucleotide sequence having at least 70 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is

a nucleotide sequence having at least 75 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

28. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is a nucleotide sequence having at least 85 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is a nucleotide sequence having at least about 95 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

32. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity comprises a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 22 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

33. (Amended) The expression cassette of claim 7, wherein said expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 75% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 75% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 has *Bt* toxin binding activity.

34. (Amended) The expression cassette of claim 33, wherein said expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 85%

sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 has *Bt* toxin binding activity.

35. (Amended) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein said expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said *Lepidopteran* insect receptor polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 has *Bt* toxin binding activity.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10-18, and 26-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7, 15, 16, and 26-29 and 32-35 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 7 have been further amended as described elsewhere herein. No new matter has been added by amendment. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner's remarks in the Office Action are addressed below in the order set forth in the Office Action.

Consideration Of Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statements

It is noted that the Examiner has not initialed citation number 25 on the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement mailed April 16, 2001. The Examiner indicates that no copy of the reference was available to review. Applicants have attached a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement, the Form 1449, and the return postcard indicating that the OIPE received copies of both references cited on the Form 1449 on April 20, 2001. In order to facilitate review, a replacement copy of the Matty reference has also been